



THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

MEMORANDUM

January 7, 2014

To: Members, Subcommittee on Health

From: Majority Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “The Extenders Policies: What Are They and How Should They Continue Under a Permanent SGR Repeal Landscape?”

The Health Subcommittee will hold a hearing on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building. The title of the hearing is “The Extenders Policies: What Are They and How Should They Continue Under a Permanent SGR Repeal Landscape?” This hearing will be an opportunity for Members to hear from key experts regarding expiring health-related provisions that are typically considered together with the annual Medicare physician payment formula update. Below is background on the hearing.

I. Witnesses

Glenn M. Hackbarth, J.D.
Chairman
Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC)

Diane Rowland, Sc.D.
Chair
Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC)

Michael Lu, M.D., M.S., M.P.H.
Associate Administrator
Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Naomi Goldstein, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

II. Background

In July 2013, the Committee unanimously approved a bipartisan proposal to address the flawed Medicare physician payment formula. The Committee remains committed to finalizing a legislative proposal in the 113th Congress. As such, this hearing provides Members the

opportunity to explore expiring Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and human services provisions that are typically considered as part of short-term Medicare physician payment formula patches or in similar health-related legislation. These provisions are typically referred to as "extenders."

Members will hear from expert witnesses regarding the value of key extenders in improving Americans' health and reducing Federal costs and receive recommendations on how such policies could be improved for future consideration. The list of "extenders" to be discussed during this hearing will be limited to those major health-related provisions that expire during the current fiscal year and/or typically have been included in previous short-term Medicare physician payment proposals.

The list of extenders includes the following:

- Floor on Geographic Adjustment (or GPCI) for Physician Fee Schedule,
- Ambulance Transitional Increase & Annual Reimbursement Update,
- Therapy Cap Exceptions Process,
- Special Needs Plans,
- Medicare Reasonable Cost Contracts,
- National Quality Forum (NQF),
- Qualifying Individual (QI) Program,
- Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA),
- Medicare Inpatient Hospital Payment Adjustment for Low-Volume Hospitals,
- Medicare-Dependent Hospital (MDH) program,
- Medicaid and CHIP Express Lane Eligibility,
- Children's Performance Bonus Payments,
- Child Health Quality Measures,
- Outreach and Assistance for Low Income Programs,
- Family-to-Family Health Information Centers,
- Abstinence Education,
- Personal Responsibility Education Program,

- Health Workforce Demonstration Program,
- The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs, and
- Special Diabetes Program.

III. Conclusion

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Monica Popp, Robert Horne, Brenda Destro, or Katie Novaria of the Majority Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.